

Message Text

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15
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /069 W

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R 250400Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9172
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
ABU DHABI 291
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 3359

DEPT PLEASE PASS TO BAGHDAD

E.O. 1652: GDS
TAGS: PINT
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ON ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS DISIDENT YEMENIS

REFS: SANA 2731, SANA 2622 (NOTAL)

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: ON SEPTEMBER 21 FOREIGN MINISTER
AL-ASNAJ DESCRIBED IN SOME DETAIL ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS
DISSIDENT YEMENI ELEMENTS IN AND OUTSIDE YEMEN AS WELL
AS THE MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY YARG TO COUNTER THESE
ACTIVITIES. DESPITE MACHINATIONS BY THESE ELEMENTS
AL-ASNAJ SAID THAT REGIME IS NOW IN STRONG POSITION TO
UNDERTAKE MAJOR PURGE OF LEFTISTS IN YEMEN. CONTINUED
SAUDI SUPPORT FOR AL-HAMDI DOUBTLESS ONE MAJOR REASON
BEHIND AL-HAMDI'S MOVES AGAINST LEFT AT THIS TIME.

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END SUMMARY.

2. AL-ASNAJ INFORMED ME DURING SEPTEMBER 21 CALL THAT APPROXIMATELY 200 "LEFTISTS" HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OVER THE LAST SEVERAL WEEKS REPRESENTING SEVERAL "MARXIST AND LEFTIST GROUPS" WHO HAVE BEEN OPERATING UNDER AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION WHICH AL-ASNAJ SAID STYLES ITSELF AS "THE FRONT OF DEMOCRATIC AND PROGRESSIVE FORCES". AL-ASNAJ SAID THIS FRONT CONSISTS OF SIX GROUPS INCLUDING AMONG OTHERS THE YEMENI BAATHI PARTY, THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (IN AL-ASNAJ'S WORDS A TERRORIST MARXIST GROUP) AND THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT, AND ADENI GROUP.

3. AL-ASNAJ CONTINUED THAT THE GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO MOVE AGAINST THESE LEFTISTS EARLIER THIS SUMMER BUT HAD BEEN RELUCTANT TO DO SO DURING THE TENSION AT THAT TIME IN SAUDI/YEMENI RELATIONS ARISING FROM THE ACTIVITIES OF SHAIKH ABDALLAH AL-AHMAR AND HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW MUJAHID ABU SHUWARIB. AL-ASNAJ WENT ON THAT GIVEN CONTINUED FULL SAUDI SUPPORT OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT THESE RIGHTIST ELEMENTS ARE NOW QUIESCENT IN YEMEN AND THIS HAS MEANT THAT YARG IS NOW ABLE TO MOVE AGAINST LEFTISTS AS IT HAS LONG DESIRED.

4. AL-ASNAJ NOTED THAT DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE POINTS TO FULL PDRY SUPPORT FOR THE LEFTIST ELEMENTS COMPRISING THE FRONT, STATING THAT AT LEAST THREE ORGANIZATIONS ARE ON A DIRECT PDRY PAYROLL THE YEMENI BAATHI PARTY, HOWEVER, IS BEING SUPPORTED SOLELY BY THE IRDI BAATHI PARTY. AL-ASNAJ INDICATED THAT THE YEMENI GOVERNMENT IS TRYING TO DIVIDE THE FRONT BY SPREADING THE STORY THAT IT IS THE BAATHIS WHO HAVE SQUEALED ON THEIR FELLOWS. AL-ASNAJ OBSERVED THAT TO UNDERSCORE THIS POINT THE BAATHIS ARE NOT BEING PICKED UP. AL-ASNAJ CONCLUDED THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO SEE IF THIS TACTIC IS WORKING NEBUT HE ASSUMED THAT GIVEN CURRENT IRAQI/PDRY TENSIONS PDRY AND ITS FOLLOWERS HERE IN THE NORTH WILL MORE THAN LIKELY SWALLOW THE BAIT. AL-ASNAJ ADDED THAT YARG IS NOT SEEKING CONFRONTATION WITH IRAQ AT THIS TIME
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IN ORDER NOT TO OVERTAX ITS LIMITED RESOURCES IN HANDLING YEMENI DISSIDENT ELEMENTS.

5. AL-ASNAJ CONTINUED THAT FORMER PRIME MINISTER MUHSIN AL-AYNI, A PROMINENT LEFTIST, CONTINUES TO BE PAID BY IRAQ AND HAS BEEN ENDEAVORING TO BUILD A LEFTIST/RIGHTIST COALITION AGAINST THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. THUS, AL-AYNI MET RECENTLY

IN LONDON WITH MUJAHID ABU SHUWARIB OF THE RIGHT. LATER AL-AYNI MET WITH THE ABU LUHUMS (WHO ALSO WERE IN LONDON) IN ISTANBUL FOR A SEPARATE CONFAB. AL-ASNAJ DID NOT KNOW THE RESULTS OF THESE MEETINGS EXCEPT TO ASSUME THEY ARE PLOTTING AGAINST YEMEN. AMY SHUWARIB, HOWEVER, WAS INFORMED DURING A RECENT TRIP TO RIYADH THAT THE SAUDIS ARE SUPPORTING AL-HAMDI AND THAT HE SHOULD NOT INVOLVE HIMSELF IN ANTI-REGIME ACTIVITIES. AL-ASNAJ SURMISED THT ABU SHUWARIB IS, THEREFORE, NOT GOING TO BE IN A POSITION TO PLAY ANY EFFECTIVE ROLE WITH THE LEFT UNLESS HE IS PREPARED TO CUT HIS TIES WITH SAUDI ARABIA WHICH HAS THUS FAR BEEN THE MAJOR SOURCE OF HIS FUNDING.

6. AL-ASNAJ EMPHASIZED THAT THE REGIME INTENDS TO CONTINUE WITH ITS ANTI-LEFT CAMPAIGN AND PLANS TO CARRY OUT A "PURGE OF ALL THOSE MINISTRIES WHERE LEFTISTS HAVE MANAGED TO INSTALL THEMSELVES OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS".

7. COMMENT: AL-ASNAJ REPORTED THE ABOVE IN A COLD AND MATTER OF FACT MANNER, EXUDING COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN THE REGIME'S ABILITY TO CONTROL THE INTERNAL SITUATION. THE NUMBER OF DETAINEES IS MUCH LARGER THAN WE ORIGINALLY HEARD AND INDICATES THAT A MAJOR ANTI-LEFT MOVE MAY WELL BE UNDERWAY. IN THIS REGARDRF HOWEVER, IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT AL-ASNAJ SPOKE OF A "PURGE" OF THE MINISTRIES AND NOT OF SOME OF THE MORE PRIMINENT LEFTIST MINISTER IN THE CABINET. DOUBTLESS THIS MUST SIGNIFY A REGIME EFFORT TO CUT OUT THE ROOTS OF

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LEFTIST MOVEMENT IN YEMEN, WHILE LEAVING ITS MORE VISIBLE BRANCHES TO DIE OFF WITH NO OVERT ACTION NECESSARY. AS NOTED BY AL-ASNAJ, AL-HAMDI AND HIS REGIME CERTAINLY APPEAR TO BE ON TOP OF THE SITUATION AND BARRING ANY UNTOWARD INCIDENT (I.E. ASSASSINATION OF AL-HAMDI) OR A FALLING OUT WITHIN THE REGIME ITSELF, AL-HAMDI SHOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE HIS MOVES AGAINST THE LEFT. SUCH A MOVE SHOULD CERTAINLY PLEASE SAUDI ARABIA WHOSE CONTINUED SUPPORT IS DOUBTLESS ONE OF THE MAJOR REASONS WHY AL-HAMDI FEELS EMBOLDENED TO TAKE THIS COURSE OF ACTION AT THIS TIME.

SCOTES

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANA03359
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760371-1146
From: SANA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760920/aaaaaqzi.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 SANA 2731, 76 SANA 2622
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER ON ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS DISIDENT YEMENIS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, YE, (AL-ASNAJ, ABDULLAH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006